

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on February 6, 2007. By this office action, claim 32 was amended and claims 69, 70 and 73 were canceled. No claims have added. As a result, claims 32-37, 39-45 and 72 are now pending in this application. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested. An early allowance is also requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action of February 6, 2007, claim 73 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 73 depended from independent claim 32. In this office action Applicant has amended independent claim 32 by incorporating the recitations of claim 73. This places claim 32 in allowable form since it now meets the requirements of an independent claim that includes all the limitations of the base claim (32) and the intervening claims (none). This also makes claim 73 redundant and so therefore it has been canceled.

Claim 32 is now in allowable form and all the claims that remain depend from claim 32 either directly or indirectly. Accordingly, all the remaining claims 32-37, 39-45 and 72 are now in allowable form and the various rejections are overcome.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Rejection: Claims 32-37, 39-45, and 72 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Schuster (U.S. 2004/0113752).

Response: Claim 32 has been amended to an allowable form and, as a result, the rejection of claims 32-37, 39-45, and 72 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Schuster (U.S. 2004/0113752) is now overcome.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

A. Rejection: Claims 42 and 44 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuster in view of Figueroa et al. (U.S. 6,446,317).

B. Response: Claim 32 has been amended to an allowable form, as explained above. Claims 42 and 44 depend from claim 32. As a result, the rejection of claims 42 and 44 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuster in view of Figueroa et al. (U.S. 6,446,317 is now overcome).

C. Rejection: Claim 43 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuster in view of Crockett et al. (U.S. 2002/0100612).

D. Response: Claim 32 has been amended to an allowable form, as explained above. Claim 43 depends from claim 32. As a result, the rejection of claim 43 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuster in view of Figueroa et al. (U.S. 6,446,317 is now overcome).

E. Rejection: Claims 69 and 70 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crockett et al. in view of Figueroa et al. (U.S. 6,446,317).

F. Response: By this amendment, claims 69 and 70 have been canceled. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection of claims 69 and 70 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crockett et al. in view of Figueroa et al. (U.S. 6,446,317) is now moot.

Reservation of Rights

In the interest of clarity and brevity, Applicant may not have addressed every assertion made in the Office Action. Applicant's silence regarding any such assertion does not constitute any admission or acquiescence. Applicant reserves all rights not exercised in connection with this response, such as the right to challenge or rebut any tacit or explicit characterization of any reference or of any of the present claims, the right to challenge or rebut any asserted factual or legal basis of any of the rejections, the right to swear behind any cited reference such as provided under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, or the right to assert co-ownership of any cited reference. Applicant does not admit that any of the cited references or any other references of record are relevant to the present claims, or that they constitute prior art. To the extent that any rejection or assertion is based upon the Examiner's personal knowledge, rather than any objective evidence of record as manifested by a cited prior art reference, Applicant timely objects to such reliance on Official Notice, and reserves all rights to request that the Examiner provide a reference or affidavit in support of such assertion, as required by MPEP § 2144.03. Applicant reserves all rights to pursue any cancelled claims in a subsequent patent application claiming the benefit of priority of the present patent application, and to request rejoinder of any withdrawn claim, as required by MPEP § 821.04.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney ((612) 373-6977) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

TODD B. MYERS ET AL.

By their Representatives,
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
(612) 373-6977

Date

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By



Richard E. Billion
Reg. No. 32,836